

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE — VETOING
SENATE BILL NO. 402.

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, March 24, 1913.

To the Senate:

Senate bill No. 402, which was received in the Governor's office on March 20, creates a new judicial district to be known as the Seventy-sixth, by dividing the Thirteenth District, now composed of Navarro, Limestone and Freestone counties.

The district judge of the Thirteenth District has written a letter to the Senator from the Ninth Senatorial District, in which he expresses the belief that a new district is not necessary. It has been shown to my satisfaction that the terms of the district court in the counties of Navarro and Limestone are sufficient to dispose of the business in those counties. On account of the construction, in recent years, of railroads through Freestone county, the county has developed and business in the district court has increased. The terms of court in that county ought to be longer in order to dispose of accumulated business. This could be done by a re-arrangement of the terms of holding court in the district, and avoid the expense of an extra judicial district.

In addition, the statutes now provide that the district judge may call a special term of court in any county in his district where one is needed to dispose of accumulated business. By calling such a term of court in either of the three counties in this district any accumulated business could be disposed of.

I am persuaded that the creation of new judicial districts and the appointment of additional judges is not the remedy which is needed for crowded dockets. Bills have been pending in the Legislature providing for reform in pleadings and the dispatch of business in the trial courts. If the Legislature would pass these bills and send them to me for approval, the extra expense of additional judicial districts would not be necessary.

The bill is objected to for three reasons: First, it is unnecessary; second, the statutes provide a remedy for clearing up the docket of each county by the ordering of a special term of court by the present district judge; third, the crowded dockets of those courts are largely due, either to the district judge himself in allowing old business to ac-

cumulate and constantly permitting continuances, or to the Legislature in its failure to pass proper legislation to force the expediting of the trial of causes in the district courts.

For these reasons the bills is herewith returned without approval.

Respectfully,

O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor of Texas.